



For immediate release
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Rapid Response Team Activated to Aid Fasco Industries Employees

JEFFERSON CITY -- The state Rapid Response Team is planning to conduct another meeting with workers who have been laid off from the Fasco Industries plant in Ozark. More than 400 employees either have or will lose their jobs as a result of the plant's closing. The layoffs are taking place until December 27, as the plant ceases operations on September 27.

The Rapid Response team is composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Ozark Workforce Investment Board. The team responds to the needs of workers who have lost their jobs by providing special training and re-employment services.

Fasco Industries produces fractional HP motors and blowers, and fractional HP and electric motors. The plants' assemblers, machine operators, welder operators, maintenance technicians, engineers, material handlers, supervisors, inspectors and clerical staff will be out of work, as the production is moved across the border to Mexico.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development, has directed DWD to assist Fasco employees by offering Missouri Career Center services.

"We are working to do everything we can to assist these workers get back in the workforce as quickly as possible," Driskill said. "The Rapid Response team is an efficient partnership between state and local agencies, dedicated to helping displaced workers find suitable employment. We encourage these individuals to take advantage of these free services."

The Rapid Response Team and the Missouri Career Center will provide immediate services to workers needing assistance, including assessment and testing, career counseling, resume writing, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education.

These services are free of charge and available through the Missouri Career Center office in Springfield at 1514 South Glenstone. Workers are encouraged to visit the Career Center for an assessment to determine if they are eligible for assistance through the dislocated worker, Trade Adjustment Act (TAA) or NAFTA programs.

Representatives from DWD are working with the company to ensure that workers have access to Career Center services. The next round of meetings with workers will be held Monday, July 22 at 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. at the Ozark factory location.

Employers interested in hiring Fasco Industries workers can call 1-800-877-8698.

Since 1983--when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established--more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training or re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response team can call DWD at 1-800-877-8698 or Alice Simpson with the Missouri Career Center at 417-841-3338.

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Editor's Note: Rapid Response meetings are not open to the public/media. If you have questions, please contact Jim Grebing at 573-751-9065.